



# Educational Resources

## MODEL PARLIAMENT UNIT – ASSESSMENT: TEST BANK

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### Test Bank

Choose from the following selection of questions, balancing memory and thinking skills, with lesson content.

#### I. Events in a Parliamentary Day

State what each of the following events is, and explain its importance.  
(Suggested 2 marks each)

Opening of Sitting	Government Orders	Question Period
Routine Proceedings	Debate on Motions	Committee Meetings
Tabling of Documents	Second Reading of a Government Bill	Other Business (Senate)
Presentation of Reports from Standing or Special Committees	Third Reading of a Government Bill	Private Members' Business (House of Commons)
Introduction of a Government Bill	Senators' Statements	Adjournment Proceedings
Presentation of Petitions	Members' Statements	

## II. Parliamentarians and Parliamentary Officials

Describe the role that each individual plays in Parliament. Explain his or her importance to the parliamentary process. (Suggested 2 marks each)

Cabinet Minister	Committee Member (Opposition)	Member of Parliament
Clerk of the House	Governor General	Page
Clerk of the Senate	Leader of the Official Opposition	Prime Minister
Committee Chair	Leader of a Third Party	Senator
Committee Member (Government)	Minister	Sergeant-at-Arms
Speaker of the Senate	Usher of the Black Rod	Speaker of the House of Commons

### III. Who Am I?

Identify the following people by what role they play in Parliament. (Suggested 1 mark each)

1. I am the head of a group in the Upper House that carefully examines bills and other matters. During our meetings, I must ensure fairness, keep parliamentarians on track and keep order.
2. I am an MP who has been chosen by the Prime Minister to be part of his/her Cabinet.
3. I am the elected leader of the Canadian people. I select Cabinet Ministers from among my party MPs to head the various government departments.
4. I am an advisor to the Speaker of the Senate and the Senators, keeper of all Senate documents and supervisor of all Senate staff.
5. I am guardian of the Mace. I play a ceremonial role in the Commons and my duties are centred on the security of parliamentarians and visitors while they are within the parliamentary precincts.
6. I preside over the sittings of the Senate, read the motions and put forward the questions to which the Senate must respond with a vote. I represent the Senate in Canada and abroad.
7. I am responsible for presiding over the sittings of the Commons. It is sometimes difficult - especially during heated discussions - but I must be fair and impartial and maintain order at all times.
8. I hear points of order and questions of privilege, make rulings based on precedent and practice, and represent the House of Commons in Canada and abroad.
9. I was elected by the people in my riding to hold a seat in the House of Commons. I spend much of my time on Parliament Hill. Also, much of my time is devoted to dealing with the concerns and problems of my constituents.
10. Although my party did not win enough seats in the last general election to form the Government, we did win the second largest number of seats. As party leader, I meet with my caucus to discuss strategy and alternatives to Government policies, speak daily in the House of Commons and provide Canadians with an alternative to the present Government.
11. I was chosen by the Prime Minister to serve in the "Upper House" of Parliament. After bills have passed through the House of Commons, they must be sent to our House for



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approval. It can also work the other way around. Bills may be started in our Chamber, but must later go to the House of Commons for approval.

12. I am the representative of the Sovereign in Canada, giving approval of a bill passed by the House of Commons and the Senate, making it into an Act of Parliament. I accord Royal Assent in the Senate Chamber.
13. My name comes from an ebony rod, which symbolizes my position. I am appointed by the Governor-in-Council as personal attendant to the representative of the Sovereign. I supervise the administrative duties for the opening of Parliament and escort the Speaker into the Chamber.
14. I carry messages and deliver documents and other material to Senators during sittings of the Senate. I am a university student.

#### IV. The Legislative Process

Answer the following questions in full sentences. (Marks will vary)

1. What are the **three** purposes of the introduction of a bill?
2. What **two** motions have to be passed at the introduction stage of a bill?
3. The second reading of a bill is regarded as the most important stage in the passage of a bill. Why?
4. What types of amendments are allowed at second reading?
5. List **two** of the possible three amendments that are allowed at second reading of a bill.
6. What is the purpose of amendments?
7. Give an example of a case in which you think a "hoist" amendment might be used.
8. Do you agree or disagree with the rule that the basic principle of the bill cannot be changed at the report stage? Explain your reasons.
9. Give **two** reasons why the committee stage is an important step in the legislative process.
10. What is the purpose of the third reading?
11. Do you think debate at third reading is necessary? Why or why not?
12. What are the benefits of sending a bill to the other chamber?
13. Why does the stage of Royal Assent and Proclamation exist?
14. Explain how a bill might have been worked on for many months, or even years, and not have been selected to come to a vote.
15. There are random draws for Members' bills to be brought to the attention of Parliament. Suggest a better way to choose which bills are selected for debate.
16. What is the purpose of caucus meetings?

## V. The Parliamentary Day

Answer the following in full sentences. (Marks will vary)

1. Explain the composition and the purpose of the weekly caucus meetings.
2. Describe one meeting of parliamentarians that takes place outside both the Senate and the House of Commons.

## VI. Read and Reflect

Find a news article that relates to parliamentary procedure, the passage of a bill or debate on an issue. (Marks will vary)

1. Summarize the main points of the news article.
2. Comment on the article, based on what you have learned in the Model Parliament simulation.

## VII. Writing Assignment

Write a brief composition on one of the following topics. (Marks will vary according to length and depth of composition assigned)

1. In Canada, the legislative process involves numerous steps. Is this an effective process? Explain and support your position.
2. Is parliamentary democracy an effective system of government? Explain and support your position.
3. What role should the media play in a parliamentary democracy? Explain and support your position.
4. Does Canada's Parliament represent the youth of Canada? Explain and support your position.
5. Should all citizens of voting age be required by law to exercise their right to vote? Explain and support your position.